

Alzheimer's Disease, Related Dementia and American Indians and Alaska Natives

ADRD AND NATIVE PEOPLE

570,000 American Indian and Alaska Native people 65 years or older live in the United States. By 2050, this number will likely triple in size. About 1 in 3 Native elders will be diagnosed with dementia during the next 20 years. However, many tribal communities are unaware of the nature, presentation, and extent of Alzheimer's disease and dementia among their older members. Indeed, key signs and symptoms are often mistaken as a part of aging.

CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

The National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities funds our Center of Excellence [U54 MD00050], which focuses on risk, onset, duration of Alzheimer's disease and related dementia among older American Indians and Alaska Natives. Our Center supports 5 Satellite Centers located around the country, all led by Native researchers who ensure Native people of all backgrounds are represented in this work.



AD8 Dementia Screening Interview		Person's First Name	DOB
Remember: This is a change indication that you have made a change in the care you are providing to your loved one. Reporting and recording this change is important.		YES, A change	YES, No change
1. I received any reports from the provider that my loved one has lost the ability to do the following: (check all that apply)			
a. walk without assistance or falls			
b. remember the names, addresses and telephone numbers of family, friends, or community			
c. I find the morning hours to be a full, complete day (not just a half day, or just a night) (yes, I am completely awake in the morning, not just awake)			
d. recognize the time of day or year			
e. I have noticed abnormal changes in my loved one's behavior, such as mood, personality, or habits			
f. I notice unusual food expenditures			
g. I notice unusual drug taking and/or use			
h. I notice any change in my loved one's ability to do the following: (check all that apply)			
i. walk without assistance or falls			
j. remember the names, addresses and telephone numbers of family, friends, or community			
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What is the AD8?

The AD8 was developed as a brief instrument to help distinguish between signs of normal aging and mild dementia. It is short, simple, and quick to administer (~3 minutes) and culturally-sensitive. The AD8 contains 8 items that test for memory, orientation, judgment, and function.

The Participants

	Rural	Urban
Male	26%	19%
Female	74%	81%
65-74	80%	71%
75+	20%	29%
Total	39%	61%

Sample of convenience recruited from outreach and engagement activities.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CENTER:

RESULTS OF AD8 SCREENING AMONG RURAL AND URBAN PARTICIPANTS

Screening Question (n=158)	Rural		Urban	
	65-74	75+	65-74	75+
Problems with judgment	32%	50%	21%	26%
Less interest in crafts/cultural activities	19%*	50%*	27%	20%
Repeats the same things over again	18%*	56%*	14%	12%
Trouble learning how to use a tool, appliance, or gadget	19%	40%	23%	36%
Forgets correct month or year	10%	20%	10%	13%
Trouble handling complicated financial affairs	13%	27%	9%	21%
Trouble remembering appointments [#]	16%	44%	10%	26%
Daily problems with thinking/memory [#]	21%*	78%*	18%	22%
Total number of screening positives	33%	64%	28%	30%

*Significantly different at <0.05 by age group within locale

#Significantly different at <0.05 by age in combined rural and urban samples



**Centers for American Indian
and Alaska Native Health**
colorado school of public health

